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January 6, 1963

The Honorable Anthony J. Celebrezze
Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to the manpower conservation program just announced by President Johnson.

Has full consideration already been given to requirements for the research on health statistics that must be related to any remedial program?

The pre-induction medical examinations could, at relatively little additional cost, be made into a system for sampling the nation's health at a critical epoch of individual development. With a small further effort, perhaps on a sampling basis, this could be coupled with a family statistical report that could give great insight into other public health problems, for example mental retardation.

No other occasion seems so promising for a comprehensive evaluation of public health. At least until recently, the details of examination and especially record-keeping for selective service purposes have not corresponded to this need. However, if a technical report of the manpower conservation study is available, I would be grateful for an opportunity to study it.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Mr. R. Sargent Shriver
Mr. Luther W. Stringham
Dr. Wilbur J. Cohen

bcc: Dr. Bernard D. Karpinos

Celebrezze